

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
WORKFORCE SERVICE DELIVERY
Technical Assistance Bulletin #96**

Program: Child Care

Topic: Education Activities for At-Risk Child Care

Date: April 21, 2005

This Technical Assistance Bulletin clarifies that enrollment in secondary education (i.e., high school attendance) and work toward a General Educational Development (GED) credential are allowable education activities for parents who receive at-risk child care.

Texas Workforce Commission rule §809.2(6) defines “parent” as:

an individual responsible for the care and supervision of the child identified as the child’s natural parent, adoptive parent, stepparent, or legal guardian.

Section 809.123(a) defines “teen parent” as:

an individual 18 years of age or younger, or 19 years of age and attending high school or the equivalent, who has a child.

Section 809.121(a)(2) states that children living at low incomes are eligible for child care if:

child care is required for the child’s parents to participate in a combination of training, education or employment activities for a minimum of 25 hours per week for a single-parent family or 50 hours per week for a two-parent family, or a higher number of hours per week as established by a local Board.

Note: A Local Workforce Development Board (Board) may establish a greater number of participation hours per week.

Section 809.121(b) states that for purposes of meeting the education requirements:

each credit hour of post-secondary education will count as three hours of education activity per week.

Question: Does this mean that only post-secondary education hours count toward the 25 hour per week eligibility requirement? Specifically, how may the Boards handle a situation in which a 20-year-old parent—not defined as a teen parent in §809.123(a)—is attending high school or working toward a GED credential?

Answer: A parent who is 20 years of age or older is not considered a teen parent and is, therefore, required to participate a minimum of 25 hours (50 hours for two-parent families) in training, education, or employment activities to be eligible to receive at-risk child care, as required in §809.121(a)(2). High school attendance and work toward a GED credential for a parent who is 20 years of age are considered allowable education activities and the activity hours should be included toward the minimum activity hours required in §809.121(a)(2).

TWC Child Care and Development rules §809.121(b) as well as WD Letter 27-04 describes how to apply **post-secondary education** credit hours toward the minimum activity requirements. However, the rules do not address how to calculate time spent in **secondary education** activities. Therefore, Boards are encouraged to establish local policies to calculate secondary education hours. In order to encourage consistency with other workforce programs, TWC recommends Boards to model local policies regarding secondary hours on the Choices guidelines described in B-800.13 and B-800.15 of the Choices: A Comprehensive Guide.

Please share this information with appropriate staff. If you have questions, please contact your assigned contract manager.